

SECTION III PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. PROJECT DEFINITION

The project is a State Policy that includes provisions for:

- (1) Establishing effluent limitations and determining compliance with effluent limitations for chemical-specific criteria for priority toxic pollutants set forth in the proposed CTR and in the National Toxics Rule (adopted by U.S. EPA on December 22, 1992), and for chemical-specific basin plan objectives for priority toxic pollutants that are not superseded by the CTR;
- (2) Monitoring for 16 congeners of 2,3,7,8-TCDD; and
- (3) Statewide chronic toxicity requirements.

In addition, the proposed Policy addresses implementation of the above criteria and water quality objectives relating to the following topics:

- (1) Storm water and urban runoff;
- (2) Nonpoint source pollution discharges;
- (3) Site-specific objectives;
- (4) Watershed management and TMDLs;
- (5) Exceptions; and
- (6) Special studies (that may be used for site-specific objectives, mixing zones, metals translators, etc.).

The proposed Policy is applicable to the surface waters of California, excluding oceans. Figure III-1 is a map of this area.

B. STATEMENT OF GOALS

The SWRCB's goals for this project are to:

1. Provide more consistent statewide methods for the regulation of toxic pollutants; and

2. Provide methods that attain the highest water quality that is reasonable and protect the quality of the waters in the State from degradation.

C. PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is SWRCB adoption of the proposed Policy outlined in the Project Definition in A above.

The SWRCB will not adopt the proposed Policy until U.S. EPA has adopted the CTR because the Policy is being proposed primarily to provide a consistent statewide program of implementation for the water quality criteria that are being established by the CTR.

The proposed Policy is being developed as a part of a phased approach to development of an ISWP and EBEP. (This phased approach and components of a water quality control plan are also explained in the Introduction to this FED.) Under Phase 1 of development of the ISWP/EBEP, water quality standards will be based on a combination of existing RWQCB beneficial use designations and the following criteria/objectives to protect those beneficial uses:

- CTR criteria (for priority pollutants);
- NTR criteria (for priority pollutants);
- chemical-specific objectives for priority pollutants in the basin plans that are not superseded by the CTR; and
- statewide chronic toxicity objective (in the proposed Policy).

Phase 1 will focus on implementation of those standards. In Phase 2, the SWRCB will develop and adopt the State's ISWP and EBEP. The ISWP and EBEP will (1) incorporate by reference existing basin plan beneficial uses; (2) establish State-adopted water quality objectives (the CTR criteria will be included among the alternatives considered in establishing these objectives); and (3) incorporate the Phase 1 implementation policy, with appropriate modifications, as the program of implementation.